

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A backflow preventing plug including a thin film resilient membrane defining a flow path ~~having and forming~~ an intake port and an outlet port of the flow path,

a ball-shaped plug member which is retained by the resilient membrane between the intake port and the outlet port ~~in the flow path in the resilient membrane and~~ which is formed with a spherical sealing surface for restricting flow of fluid by coming into resilient contact with a middle portion of the resilient membrane; and

clearance forming means comprising at least one of the following:

a plurality of projection portions each of which has a shape of projection and which are located at such positions on an inner surface of the resilient membrane as to be closer to the outlet port than to a center of the ball-shaped plug member and to be apart from each other and substantially symmetrically located about a circumferential surface of the ball-shaped plug member;

a plurality of projections extending from an outer surface of the ball-shaped plug member toward the resilient membrane, said projections being closer to the outlet port than to a center of the ball-shaped plug member and to be apart from each other and substantially symmetrically located about a circumferential surface of the ball-shaped plug member; and

a plurality of recesses formed in a recess shape which are located at such positions on the plug member as to be closer to the outlet port than to a center of the ball-shaped plug member and be apart from each other and substantially symmetrically located about a circumferential surface of the ball-shaped plug member and which communicate with each other at closest positions to the outlet port,

wherein said clearance forming means forms a clearance between the outlet port and the plug member~~resilient membrane is expanded and deformed in a direction away from said plug member by a fluid pressure applied from the intake port,~~ and said resilient membrane is expanded and deformed in a direction away from said plug member~~flow path from said intake port to said outlet port is formed~~ by a pressure applied from the intake port.

2. (Previously Presented) A backflow preventing plug according to claim 1, characterized in that said resilient membrane is formed of an elastic rubber member.

3. (Original) A backflow preventing plug according to Claim 1, characterized in that the plug member has a spherical shape.

4. (Original) A backflow preventing plug according to Claim 1, characterized in that the plug member has an ellipsoidal shape.

5. (Original) A backflow preventing plug according to Claim 1, characterized in that the outlet port is formed in a slit-shape.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A backflow preventing plug according to Claim 1, characterized by further comprising discharge guiding means for guiding contents passing through the flow path with expanding the resilient membrane by an increase in fluid pressure on the intake port side toward the outlet port.

8. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A container, comprising:
the backflow preventing plug according to Claim 1 and a container body having an opening,
wherein the backflow preventing plug is attached to the container opening.

11. (Original) A container according to Claim 10 characterized by comprising fixed quantity discharging means for allowing contents to be discharged by a fixed quantity.

12. (Original) A container according to Claim 10 characterized in that the container body is formed in a contractively deformable bag shape for discharging contents from the container opening.

13. (Original) A container according to Claim 11 characterized in that the container body is formed in a contractively deformable bag shape for discharging contents from the container opening.

14. (Original) A container according to Claim 10 characterized in that the container body is formed in a contractively deformable accordion shape for discharging contents from the container opening.

15. (Original) A container according to Claim 11 characterized in that the container body is formed in a contractively deformable accordion shape for discharging contents from the container opening.

16. (Original) A container according to Claim 10 characterized in that the container body includes a cylindrical member for accommodating contents, and an axially slidable piston fitted into the cylindrical member.

17. (Original) A container according to Claim 11 characterized in that the container body includes a cylindrical member for accommodating contents, and an axially slidable piston fitted into the cylindrical member.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container according to claim 12; and

an outer mantle surrounding the container body of ~~the said container according to Claim 12~~ through a space therebetween, the outer mantle being resiliently deformable so as to contractingly deform the container body through air in the space by a resilient deformation thereof due to an external pressure.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container according to claim 13; and

an outer mantle surrounding the container body of ~~thesaid~~ container ~~according to Claim 13~~ through a space therebetween, the outer mantle being resiliently deformable so as to contractingly deform the container body through air in the space by a resilient deformation thereof due to an external pressure.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container according to claim 14; and

a container holder for holding ~~thesaid~~ container ~~according to Claim 14~~ and allowing the container body to be pressurized from the container opening side for contracting deformation.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container according to claim 15; and

a container holder for holding ~~thesaid~~ container according to Claim 15 and allowing the container body to be pressurized from the container opening side for contracting deformation.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container according to claim 16; and

a cartridge holder for supporting ~~thesaid~~ container according to Claim 16, and a fixed quantity discharging mechanism for causing contents to be poured by a predetermined small amount at every pushing operation for discharging the contents from the container opening of the container.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container of claim 16; and

a pushing member for pushing the piston with respect to the cylindrical member of ~~thesaid~~ container according to Claim 16 in a content discharging direction.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A pouring device ~~characterized by~~ comprising the container of claim 17; and

a pushing member for pushing the piston with respect to the cylindrical member of ~~the said~~ container ~~according to Claim 17~~ in a content discharging direction.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A backflow preventing plug including a thin film resilient membrane defining a flow path ~~having and forming~~ an intake port and an outlet port of the flow path,

a ball-shaped plug member which is retained by the resilient membrane between the intake port and the outlet port ~~in the flow path in the resilient membrane and~~ which is formed with a spherical sealing surface for restricting flow of fluid by coming into resilient contact with a middle portion of the resilient membrane; and

clearance forming means forming a clearance between the outlet port and the ball-shaped plug member, comprising at least one of the following:

a plurality of projections each of which has a shape of projection and which are located at such positions on an inner surface of the resilient membrane as to be closer to the outlet port than to a center of the ball-shaped plug member and to be apart from each other in a circumferential direction at substantially equal distances from the center of the ball-shaped plug member;

a plurality of projections extending from an outer surface of the ball-shaped plug member toward the resilient membrane, said projections being closer to the outlet port than to a center of the ball-shaped plug member and to be apart from each other in a circumferential direction at substantially equal distances from the center of the ball-shaped plug member; and

a plurality of recesses formed in a recess shape which are located at such positions on the plug member as to be closer to the outlet port than to a center of the ball-shaped plug member and be apart from each other in a circumferential direction at substantially equal distances from the center of the ball-shaped plug member and which communicate with each other at closest positions to the outlet port,

wherein said clearance forming means forms a clearance between the outlet port and the plug member, and said resilient membrane is expanded and deformed in a direction away from said plug member by a fluid pressure applied from the intake port.

26. (New) The backflow preventing plug of claim 1, wherein the ball-shaped plug member is always retained by the resilient membrane between the intake port and the outlet port.